

Livable and Senior Friendly Communities

The Cherokee County Aging Leadership Team has been working for the past nine months to identify areas of concern for the older population of the county. The Team has looked at a number of different sources of information to guide them in establishing and developing a plan to work toward ensuring that Cherokee County is a Livable and Senior Friendly Community.

The Team gathered and analyzed a variety of information including:

- Demographic and Data Indicators
- A Senior Needs Assessment Survey
- Current Services available in Cherokee County

Local/Regional/State Priorities

PRIORITY A: EDUCATION (Taxes, Services)

- Update County website; increase outreach & visibility throughout the community
- Improve tax collection efforts and results
- Continue to create opportunities for dialogs with citizens

PRIORITY B – HOUSING (Affordable Rental Housing, Universal Design)

- Research and find successful models for affordable housing in similar communities
- Secure investors to underwrite affordable housing

PRIORITY C - PARKING/SEATING (Commercial Areas)

- Explore feasibility of creation of alternative parking facilities
- Increase the number of handicap parking spaces downtown
- Get benches to create seating / encourage merchants to offer seating for customers

Meeting Schedule

Quarterly – July, October, January, April
2nd Thursday
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location

J. Robert Penland Senior Center
60 Alpine Street
Murphy, NC

828-837-2467

AAA Contact

Mary P. Barker, Administrator
Region A Area Agency on Aging
125 Bonnie Lane
Sylva, NC 28779
828-586-1962, ext. 216

**Cherokee
County**

**Aging Leadership
Team**

**Planning Services for the
Elderly**

Cherokee County
Board of Commissioners
Jonathan Dickey
David Sumpter III
Dana Jones

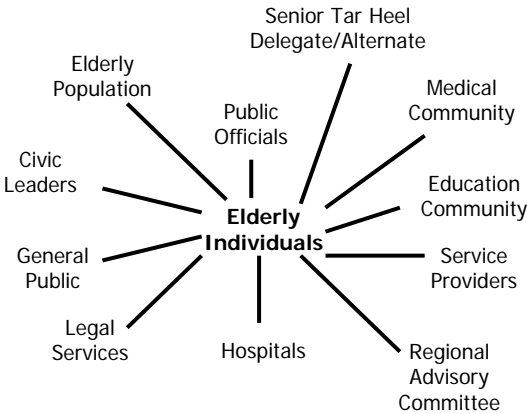
Planning for Aging Services

I. Why Plan?

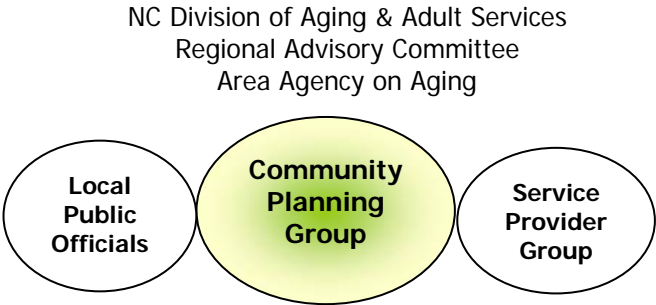
Determine the need for services;
Identify opportunities;
Less tax dollars available;
Diversity of elderly population;
Need to identify new resources.

II. What Are the Benefits of Planning?

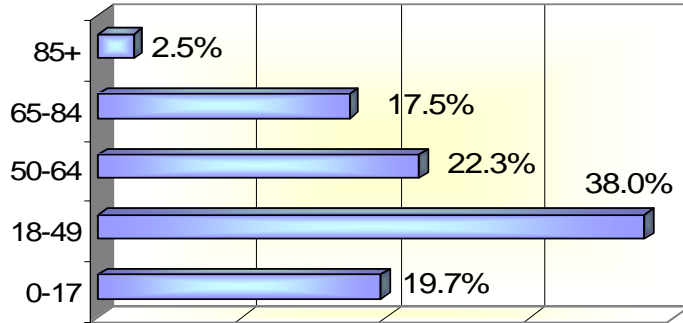
Determine needs of an aging population;
Identify new resources;
Locate service gaps;
Educate the public;
Recruit volunteers;
Foster independence of elderly by involving the community.



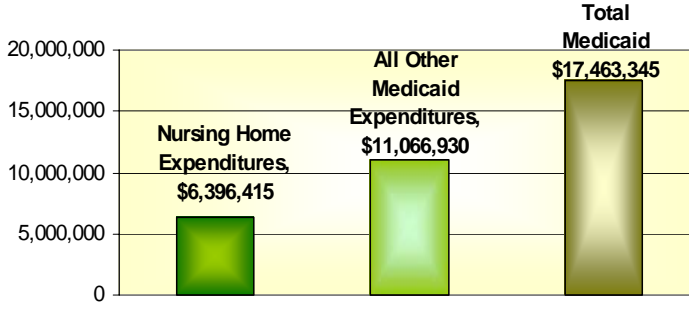
III. How Does the Process Work?



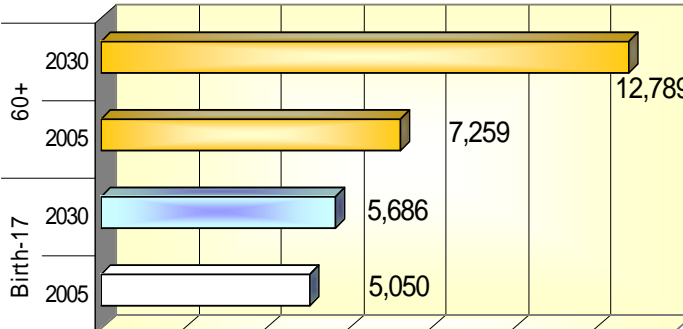
**Cherokee County Population
Distribution by Age**



**Medicaid Expenditures for Clients 60+ Years of
Age in Cherokee County (FY 04-05)**



**Cherokee County Population Projections
by Age Group**



Role of County Appointed Committees

1. Educate a broad based group of citizens as to the existing services affecting the lives of the county's elderly.
2. Review and analyze data on the aging population, services available and costs of services.
3. Identify service gaps and recommend county priority needs for state funding.
4. Discuss issues that affect the quality of life for older adults in the county.
5. Begin long range planning process to observe aging population and systems which are impacted.
6. Develop operations plan for achievement of the above objectives.

Role of Local Service Providers

1. Review of all state generated statistical data for validation.
2. Presentation of county services to Community Planning Committee.
3. Help determine all resources available to elderly in county (resource directory).
4. Be available to answer any technical questions community groups may have.

Role of County Commissioners

1. Appoint community committees.
2. Review information as it develops.
3. Approve county priority needs.
4. Approve implementation plans developed by committee.

Role of Regional Advisory Committee on Aging

1. Work with local committees to determine needs, resources, plan of action.
2. Review information as it develops.
3. Approve county priority needs.
4. Approve implementation plans developed by committee.

Role of Area Agency on Aging - Committee on Aging

1. Inform county/local officials and service providers of planning process.
2. Facilitate planning meetings, present statistical data, organize local presentations.
3. Analyze data, information, policy developed by county, to present to the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services.
4. Incorporate all county data into Regional Service Plan.
5. Be available to initiate presentations to any and all groups interested in aging issues.
6. Monitor local providers.